



Dear Doctor:

Why should you participate in Medicare's Physician Voluntary Reporting Program (PVRP)?

The PVRP is a new program that represents the first step towards gathering information on the use of physician quality measures. Physicians who choose to participate will help capture data about the quality of care provided to Medicare beneficiaries in order to identify the most effective ways to use the quality measures in routine practice to improve quality of care. The program is starting with 16 quality measures which were developed by physicians working with consensus organizations such as the Ambulatory Quality Alliance, National Quality Forum and the AMA Physician Consortium: seven are primary care measures, two are for emergency physicians, two are for nephrologists, and five are for surgeons.

Here's why you should participate in PVRP now:

- First, to assess your performance. Based upon the experiences with hospital quality reporting, those who participated early benefited from learning about their performance prior to having payments attached to such reporting program. The Physician Voluntary Reporting Program will provide information that will allow you to understand your performance compared to other physicians through confidential reports.
- Second, as Congress contemplates revising the SGR (the formula that determines the physician fee schedule update) there is interest in incorporating pay for reporting programs in such revision.
- Third, to make reporting as straightforward as possible, the PVRP uses G codes (and when they are available, CPT II codes) on the claim form to pass data to CMS. Participation will give you the opportunity to ensure that your claims processor and office software can support this process.
- Finally, your participation in PVRP now will help equip you with the experience to give CMS feedback on what works and what doesn't in the new system.

Here's how you can get started with PVRP:

- Register to participate in the PVRP. It should take no more than five minutes of your time, simply visit the website at www.qualitynet.org/pvrpintent
- A simple one-page worksheet developed specifically for doctors in your specialty is attached. Have your office staff attach this worksheet to your internal service tracking forms (superbills) or patient chart, then check the appropriate box during the patient encounter. This worksheet will help your office track PVRP services for reporting on your Medicare claims.
- Get further information about the program online:
http://www.cms.hhs.gov/pvrp/01_overview.asp
- CMS is here to help! Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions, issues or concerns. Call us at 202-236-3338, or email us at PRIT@cms.hhs.gov

Attachments: Specialty Specific Work Sheet, MLN article:

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM4183.pdf> till April 4, 06 then
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM5036.pdf>